

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1896.—COPYRIGHT, 1896, BY W. R. HEARST.

RICH, CULTURED AND A SPINSTER STILL.

Miss Maria Miller Not Bothers Her Sensible Head About Marriage.

Made Independent for Her Life by the Legacy from Mrs. Hicks-Lord.

Was Always Treated Almost as a Daughter Rather Than a Maid Servant.

A GLOBE TROTTER FOR MANY YEARS.

Educated by Her Mistress, This Fortunate Colored Woman Tells How She Enjoyed Privileges Attainable Only Through Wealth.

It is not too much to say that the most prominent figure in metropolitan colored society to-day is Miss Maria Miller. Not only is she prominent by reason of her intelligence, culture, and comeliness, but, as the recipient of an income of \$400 a month during her natural life, she probably enjoys a larger income than any single colored woman in New York City, and very likely in the United States.

It was owing to the bounty of that charming international character, the late Anna Wilhelmina Wilkens Hicks-Lord, that Maria Miller came into this sudden prominence and affluence. By the terms of Mrs. Hicks-Lord's will, filed last Wednesday and published in Thursday's Journal, Maria Miller comes into the possession of a life estate of nearly \$5,000 a year. Maria Miller is in many respects a remarkable woman. Of the average height, somewhat slender in build, and of a dark, olive complexion, with the best type of Ethiopian features, she is certainly an unusually handsome specimen of her race. Combined with this physical attractiveness, she possesses a well-stored mind, for her mistress gave her every opportunity of travel and instruction to enhance her natural intelligence.

Like a Mother Almost.

"Mrs. Hicks-Lord was more like a mother to me than a mistress," she said yesterday. "She was always kind and gentle; never spoke in anger, and never seemed to think that what she had was too good for me. All her servants loved her, but perhaps I loved her more than any of the others, for, you see, I grew up in her service, and was her almost constant companion. I was born in New York forty-four years ago. My father was a West Indian negro, but my mother was a native New Yorker. Neither was ever a slave.

When I was about six years old my parents died, and I went to live with an aunt. She sent me to a public school, where I remained until I was about fourteen, and then I don't know just how it happened—I entered the employ of my late mistress. She was then the young wife of Mr. Hicks, and was in the heyday of her social career. Although only a child, she selected me as her maid and taught me my duties. As she was always kind and gracious, it was not long before I came to love her deeply and devotedly. While I acted as her maid she would not allow my domestic duties to interfere with my mental training, and went so far as to hire a tutor for me. It is owing to this great generosity that I possess what education and literary taste I have.

A FEMALE GLOBE TROTTER.

"How many times have I been abroad? Why, let me see. Yes, I have visited Europe fourteen times, or, in other words, I have crossed the Atlantic twenty-eight times, and was never ill but once, and that was for half a day during the first voyage. Mrs. Hicks-Lord was an equally good sailor. In my life I have visited such cities as London, Edinburgh, Cork, Dublin, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Constantinople, Cairo, Port Said, Belgrade, Jerusalem, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Athens, Rome, Naples, Venice, Genoa, Palermo, Lyons, Nice, Monte Carlo, Munich, Dresden, Strasbourg, Cologne, Hamburg and Homburg, Bremen, Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, The Hague, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Christiania, and, in short, pretty much every country in Europe.

"I have lived for eighteen months at a time in Paris, and therefore I can speak French with more or less fluency. I can also speak a little German and Italian, and during my life I have been so fortunate as to have been nearly all to great singers of Europe, and have seen all the great actors, for Mrs. Hicks-Lord always used to say that I was part of my education. I have also seen the Passion Play at Oberammergau."

Widow expect to liberate a bequest from your mistress?" she was asked.

EXPECTED HER LEGACY.

"Yes," she replied; "for Mrs. Hicks-Lord had always told me that she would provide for me so liberally after her death that I

need never work again. In fact, she said that she would leave me probably about \$5,000 a year. I told her that was too much for a mere servant, but she said that I was more than a servant to her; that in the thirty years that I had lived with her, she had grown much attached to me, and that she would not rest easy in her grave if she thought that I was not to be always beyond want."

"What do you propose to do now that you are so comfortably situated for life?" "I haven't made up my mind. I shall stay here in the old home as long as I am desired, and then I will probably buy or rent a little house of my own. I presume that with \$500 a month, I can buy a house on Manhattan, can I not?"

Being assured that she unobtrusively could, she continued: "I don't know whether I will take a house in New York, or in some place just out of the city. My one great idea is to have a place of my own. When I have a number of relatives—cousins, mostly—who live in this city, in Massachusetts, and in various parts of the East, and I would derive great enjoyment by visiting among them at intervals."

"But, are you not afraid of living alone?" "What do you mean by that?" she inquired, somewhat suspiciously. "That I ought to get married? Well, if that is what you mean, let me assure you that the thought of matrimony has never once entered my mind in the forty-five years of my existence. I have been too busy, and then, perhaps, the right man hasn't come along. But you must not interpret this last remark as an intimation that I am simply waiting for the right man, for, most assuredly, I am not waiting for any kind of a husband."

"Do you anticipate doing much traveling?"

"No, I do not. I have had enough of that in my day. Before my mistress was taken ill, she had planned a visit to Japan, and, perhaps, before many years, I will go there for a short visit, but I can't say."

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POLICE ARE AT SEA OVER THE SHOOTING.

Mystery of the Wounding of Roger E. Costello Is Unexplained.

Suspicion Is Thrown Upon Young Reynolds, but Only Because of His Absence.

The Injured Man Disclaims Belief That Any Member of the Family Shot Him.

FOUR MEN UNDER ARREST RELEASED.

Joseph Scanlan Declares He Was Not in the House When the Shooting Took Place—Costello's Condition Is Critical.

In the deep mystery that surrounds the shooting of Roger E. Costello at the home

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LORD RUSSELL WILL LISTEN TO BRYAN.

To Occupy a Box at Tuesday Night's Ratification Meeting in Tammany Hall.

Thacher's Withdrawal an Incentive to Greater Efforts for Success.

Leader Sheehan Orders the Number of Outside Stands Increased from Seven to Ten.

BRYAN TO MAKE SPEECHES FROM TWO.

His Principal Address Will Be Delivered in the Hall—Committee from Tammany to Act as His Escort.

TO THE PUBLIC:

The Democratic General Committee of the City of New York cordially extends an invitation to all organizations favorable to the election of Bryan and Sewall, and to all citizens of New York who favor popular government, and who are opposed to monopolies and trusts of all descriptions, to attend the grand mass meeting to be held in and around Tammany Hall and Union square on Tuesday evening, September 29, at 7:30 o'clock, to ratify the nomination of the Democratic candidates, WILLIAM J. BRYAN, for President, and ARTHUR SEWALL, for Vice-President.

The exertions of the Tammany Hall leaders to make a memorable success of the ratification meeting on next Tuesday night were redoubled as soon as they heard of John Boyd Thacher's withdrawal from the State ticket.

With Mr. Thacher as the gubernatorial candidate they feared that Mr. Bryan would cancel his engagements in the East, and believed that if he were not present at the meeting a heavy damper would fall on the enthusiasm of the public.

John C. Sheehan was at Tammany Hall early yesterday morning, eagerly awaiting the receipt of news from Albany. When it came he gave such directions to the committee in charge of the big meeting that there was an endless amount of bustle and activity. All day long ex-commissioners Brennan and his corps of clerks and typewriters were kept on the jump, and when night fell nearly all of the more important details had been completed.

One of Mr. Sheehan's first orders was for more stands in the streets around Tammany Hall and Union square. Their number was increased from seven to ten, and from each of these eloquent speakers will discourse on the issues of the campaign. The stands will be located as follows:

- Fourteenth street, east of entrance to Tammany Hall.
- Fourteenth street, west of entrance to Tammany Hall.
- Fourteenth street, east of Irving place.
- Fourth street, west of Irving place.
- Irving place, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets.
- Union square plaza, at Seventeenth street.
- Fourth avenue and Fifteenth street.
- Fourth avenue and Sixteenth street.
- Fourth avenue, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets.
- Union square, southern end, opposite the statue of Washington.

The work on the stand in Union Square plaza, where the labor organizations will congregate, will begin tomorrow morning. The arches will be put in place on Tuesday, and they will be decorated with the national colors. On each will be stationed a band of music.

If the programme as now arranged is adhered to, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Sewall will arrive in this city to-morrow afternoon. They will come from New England on the New York & New Haven Road. The Tammany Hall Reception Committee, comprising William F. Mitchell, Senator Bernard B. Martin, Senator Thomas F. Grady, Rufus S. Ransom, Colonel M. C. Murphy, Edward C. Sheedy, Nelson Smith, and Nicholas T. Brown, John Slattery and George W. Gibbons, will go to New Haven and meet the candidates on behalf of the organization.

On arriving in this city Mr. Bryan will be escorted to the Bartholdi Hotel, where he will have headquarters during his stay in this city. It is his intention to go to New Jersey on Monday afternoon, to address a meeting that night. Should he not do so, however, he will be in the hotel when the Democratic State Committee meets there to select a candidate in place of Thacher. On Tuesday afternoon the Tammany Hall Committee will wait on Mr. Bryan at the hotel and will escort him in his carriage to Tammany Hall. After his speech they will escort him to the stands from which he will speak, and thence back to the Bartholdi.

It has been decided that after his speech in Tammany Hall, which will be his main effort, he will visit two of the stands only. They will be the ones in the Union Square plaza, and at the southern end of the square, opposite the Washington statue.

The arrangements for receiving the throngs at the hall are of the best to insure comfort. There will be 300 policemen on guard, and various officers who have inquired about the matter have been told that assurances have been given that there will be no repetition of the mistakes that were made on the occasion of the big ratification meeting in Madison Square Garden.

While the main doors of the hall will not be open until 7 o'clock, it was deemed best to make some other plan for the reception of the many ladies who will be present to hear Mr. Bryan. Those who have box tickets and others who wish to secure seats in the galleries are requested to go to the hall at 6:30 o'clock. They will be ushered into the big room nearest to Third avenue and will be met by constables who, under the direction of Daniel Doregan, will escort them to their boxes or gallery seats.

Among those who will occupy the boxes will be Lord Charles Russell, Lord Chief Justice of England, and a party of friends.

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SAVED A FORTUNE OUT OF \$10 A WEEK.

John Cummings Never Earned More, Yet Accumulated \$11,000.

For Nineteen Years Was a "Common" Laborer in Greenwood Cemetery.

Accidentally Turned on the Gas When He Retired, and Died from Asphyxiation.

WEALTH FOUND IN HIS OLD CLOTHES.

Socks Stuffed with \$5, \$10 and \$20 Bills. Bank Books on Different Institutions—His Nearest Relative a Niece.

John Cummings, sixty years old, a laborer in Greenwood Cemetery, who was found dead in bed at No. 760 Fifth avenue, Brooklyn, on Friday morning, left a fortune of nearly \$11,000. He had worked as a "common" laborer for forty years and had never received more than \$10 a week. The cause of his death was asphyxiation by gas.

He was a native of County Tipperary, Ireland. He came to this country when he was twenty years old and worked for some years as a farm hand in Ulster County. Then he came to live in Brooklyn and was employed as a stationman by the City Railroad Company. Next he got a job as common laborer in Greenwood Cemetery.

For the past nineteen years he had boarded with Mrs. Michael McNally, whose husband is an undertaker. Cummings occupied a room on the second floor of No. 760 Fifth avenue. He was a methodical man and had reserved about his affairs. Although he had boarded for so many years with the McNallys and was of a genial nature, they knew very little about his family or history. He had never married and he told them that the only living relatives he had were a widowed niece and her two children, living near Saugerties.

He also told the McNallys that he had saved considerable money. He apparently had had a quarrel with his relatives, for he did not visit his niece, and said that he would not leave her any of his money, but would will it all to charitable institutions. Cummings took his supper as usual with the McNallys on Thursday night and later in the evening sat in the parlor, talking with a friend. The last seen of him alive was about 9 P. M., when he went to his bedroom. Early Friday morning his landlady knocked at his door, as was her custom, but got no reply. Then she opened the door, and the odor of escaping gas almost overpowered her. She hurried downstairs and called her husband and son. They ran up to Cummings's bedroom and found him dead. Beneath the pillow was the pair of trousers he had worn before. On a chair by the side of his bed was the rest of his clothing. Coroner Coombs was notified. He decided that asphyxiation was the cause of death, and, in his opinion, it was accidental. It is believed that in moving about the room, after he had extinguished the gas, Cummings in some way partly turned it on again. The door was so tight as to escape his notice, and yet enough to kill him, as both his door and the only window in the room were closed.

It was when Coroner Coombs began his search for papers that the discovery of his wealth was made. Only seventeen cents had been found in the clothing he had worn the day before.

In the room was an old-fashioned iron trunk, which contained the dead man's wardrobe, which consisted of several worn suits and underwear. Among the latter were half a dozen pairs of winter socks, and in the toe of each sock was found stuffed a pair of \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills. When these had all been taken out and counted they were found to amount altogether to \$285.

The next day was a bank book between the folds of a pair of trousers. A second one was found in the folds of a vest, a third in a coat, and a fourth inside of a white shirt. The books were those of the South Brooklyn Savings Institution, Brooklyn Savings Bank, Brooklyn Dime Savings Bank and the Saugerties Savings Bank. There was a balance in each of \$3,000, except the Brooklyn Dime Savings Bank, which showed a balance of \$2,000.

Coroner Coombs turned the money and bank books over to the Public Administrator. A telegram was sent to the Saugerties Savings Bank officials, asking them to try to locate the dead man's niece.

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